U. S. Patent Application No. 09/316,651
Amendment Dated June 16, 2004
Response to Final Office Action dated April 8, 2004
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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 15, beginning at line 4 through page 16, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

Data generated <u>by batteries 37 and</u> by the various sensor elements ~~37,~~ 38 of sensor subsystem 12 normally does not have to be sampled at an extremely high sample rate. Although data from the various sensing elements could be sampled at virtually any sample rate from an ultrafast submicrosecond sampling rate to a slower sample rate of once per several minutes, it is normally sufficient to configure system 10 to sample data at a rate that ranges from about once per several seconds to once per several minutes. Typically, system 10 is configured to sample data from each device 18, 20 at a sampling rate of about one sample per minute. Because the data generated by the various devices 18, 20 does not have to be sampled at an extremely high data rate, and the occurrences of collisions between samples are correspondingly rare, it is normally not necessary to establish a high degree of coordination between the receiver 64 and the transmitters 17, 22, 22', 24 of subsystem 12. Accordingly, operable communication between transmitters 22, 22', 24 and receiver 64 can normally be established by configuring transmitters 22, 22' to send bitstream samples generated by their associated sensor device at a rate of about once per minute, and configuring transmitter 24 so that transmitter 24 transmits samples received at each of its input ports at a rate of about one sample per minute. A sample period should be long enough so that at least one complete bitstream 50 as described with reference to Fig. 3 is assured of being included in each sample. Preferably, a sample period is configured so that each sample contains a plurality of data bitstreams.

Please replace the paragraph on page 19, at lines 11 through 18, with the following amended paragraph:

Before encrypting data and writing encrypted bitstream data to preconfigured indexed data storage structures of memory ~~68~~ <u>66</u>, processor ~~68~~ ~~66~~ <u>68</u> may drop those sets of bits from bitstream 78 pertaining to the date stamp information (year, month, day) in the

interest of conserving memory space. However, the security of the encryption may be improved by maintaining the date stamp bits through the encryption process.